

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 31-79 are pending after entry of the above amendments.

New claim 79 is added. Support for new claim xx is found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed and previously presented. Specifically, claim 79 is essentially previously presented claim 31 rewritten to incorporate the limitations of claim 34.

No new matter is added.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Interview:

The applicants wish to thank Examiner Christopher Yaen for the brief telephone interview with the undersigned on May 26, 2004. Examiner Yaen informed the undersigned that an Advisory Action had been prepared and was to be mailed out some time the week of May 31, 2004. Examiner Yaen suggested that applicants file an RCE with a Preliminary Amendment to introduce at least one new claim. He agreed that the Preliminary Amendment would be sufficient to avoid receiving a Final Office Action as the first action in the RCE.

Advisory Action

Applicants are not able at this time to address the substance of the Advisory Action since it has not yet been received. Thus applicants have provided no comment on any prior rejections as it is not yet known what rejections have been maintained, or the grounds for maintaining such rejections.

Applicants request that, in considering the claims presented here, the Office fully consider the arguments set out in the prior response. It was applicants' expectation that the prior response would be sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance, particularly in view of the apparently favorable interview and applicants' presentation of the arguments apparently considered persuasive in the last response. Upon further consideration of the application should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would expedite prosecution, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

New claim 79 is supported by previously presented claim 31 rewritten to incorporate the limitations of claim 36. Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is free of the prior art, since claim 36 was not rejected based on the prior art of record in the last Office Action.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number IRVN-001DIV2.

Respectfully submitted,
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